



Serving the Iowa Legislature

IOWA LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR AND BRIEFING

November 14, 2013

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Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund Study Committee

10:00 a.m., Room 116, Statehouse

Tuesday, November 19, and Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Integrated Health Care Models and Multi-payer Delivery Systems Study Committee

Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee

10:00 a.m., Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Iowa Rivers and Waterways Study Committee

Time to be announced, Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Public Retirement Systems Committee

9:30 a.m., Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Revenue Estimating Conference

2:00 p.m., Room 116, Statehouse

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign Fiscal Viability Study Committee

10:00 a.m., Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing is published by the Legal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA). For additional information, contact: LSA at (515) 281-3566.

AGENDAS

INFORMATION REGARDING SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund Study Committee

Temporary Co-chairperson: Senator William A. Dotzler

Temporary Co-chairperson: Representative Mary Ann Hanusa

Location: Room 116, Statehouse

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Contact Persons: Kathy Hanlon, Legal Services, (515) 281-3847; Jack Ewing, Legal Services, (515) 281-6048; Amber DeSmet, Legal Services, (515) 281-3745.

Tentative Agenda: Presentations concerning the planning and implementation of programs and appropriations made from the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.

Internet Page: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=928>

Integrated Health Care Models and Multi-payer Delivery Systems Study Committee

Temporary Co-chairperson: Senator Amanda Ragan

Temporary Co-chairperson: Representative Linda Miller

Location: Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Dates & Times: Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

Contact Persons: Patty Funaro, Legal Services, (515) 281-3040; Ann Ver Heul, Legal Services, (515) 281-3837; Amber DeSmet, Legal Services, (515) 281-3745.

Tentative Agenda: To be announced.

Internet Page: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=922>

Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee

Temporary Co-chairperson: Senator Joe Bolkcom

Temporary Co-chairperson: Representative Tom Sands

Location: Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Contact Persons: Michael Duster, Legal Services, (515) 281-4800; Mike Mertens, Legal Services, (515) 281-3444; Joe McEniry, Legal Services, (515) 281-3189.

Tentative Agenda: Presentations concerning the tax credits required to be reviewed by the committee under Iowa Code §2.48.

Internet Page: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=511>

Iowa Rivers and Waterways Study Committee

Temporary Co-chairperson: Senator Dick Dearden

Temporary Co-chairperson: Representative Lee Hein

Location: Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 10, 2013, Time to be announced.

Contact Persons: Tim McDermott, Legal Services, (515) 281-8090; Doug Adkisson, Legal Services, (515) 281-3884; Ann Ver Heul, Legal Services, (515) 281-3837.

Tentative Agenda: Presentations regarding river restoration.

Internet Page: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=926>

Public Retirement Systems Committee

Co-chairperson: Senator Thomas Courtney

Co-chairperson: Representative Dawn Pettengill

Location: Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber, Statehouse

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

Contact Persons: Ed Cook, Legal Services, (515) 281-3994; Andrew Ward, Legal Services, (515) 725-2251; Rick Nelson, Legal Services, (515) 242-5822.

Tentative Agenda: Presentations on the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS), Public Safety Peace Officers' Retirement, Accident, and Disability System (PORS), Judicial Retirement System, and other related issues.

Internet Page: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=57>

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

November 5, 2013

Co-chairperson: Senator Rita Hart

Co-chairperson: Representative Greg Forristall

Background. The Legislative Council approved the Administrative Costs in Higher Education Study Committee on July 18, 2013, and granted it one meeting date in which to examine administrative costs at higher education institutions and the impact of these costs on Iowa students and their families; compare the growth in administrative costs and instructional costs at Board of Regents institutions, community colleges, private colleges, and for-profit colleges; identify fragmentation, overlap, or duplication of administrative services on a campus-wide and system-wide basis, and look for ways to reduce the financial impact on students and their families; and examine the manner in which fee rates charged to students are established.

Department of Education—Iowa Community Colleges. The committee received presentations from Mr. Kent Farver, Chief, Bureau of Community College Education, Iowa Department of Education (DE); Dr. Mick Starcevich, President, Kirkwood Community College; and Dr. Daniel Kinney, President, Iowa Central Community College.

Mr. Farver noted that Iowa's 15 community colleges have open-door policies with nearly everyone who applies for admission being accepted. The DE is responsible for collecting and reporting on financial information from the community colleges, and maintains a community college accounting manual that defines how the financial information should be recorded and specifies how it should be reported to the DE. Each community college is audited on an annual basis by an external auditor. The DE compiles and publishes information about the community college system in its Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges Report each January. Mr. Farver distributed a handout prepared for the committee titled "Iowa Community College Data," and described the information contained in the handout.

Dr. Kinney noted that staffing is directly related to the budget. The community college added staff when enrollment increased, and it is now reducing staff because of dropping enrollment. Mr. Farver noted that five or six community colleges have had to adjust their budgets recently due to declining enrollments. Dr. Starcevich observed that when first created, the community college system was supported in the following manner: 50 percent from state funding, 25 percent from local property tax, and 25 percent from tuition. Mr. Farver noted that in the 2001-2002 fiscal year the percentages started flipping, with tuition and fees outstripping state aid. He observed community colleges have a difficult time budgeting when they are so reliant on hard-to-predict student enrollment figures. Though the funding stream percentages differ now by community college, Dr. Starcevich noted that Kirkwood receives 64 percent of its funding from tuition and fees, 28 percent from state aid, 3 percent from local property tax, and the remainder from grants. Dr. Kinney noted that Iowa Central Community College receives 66 percent of its support from tuition and fees and that while the typical amount of state aid community colleges receive nationally is 50 percent, in neighboring Kansas the amount of state aid is 60 percent.

Discussion also focused on regional centers operated by Kirkwood Community College, student debt, nontraditional students including those who are military veterans, technology as a measure to reduce student costs for textbooks, dual enrollment, postsecondary enrollment options and the need to increase the amount of tuition reimbursement mandated in Iowa Code §261E.7(1), the need to control tuition increases, fund-raising and entrepreneurial efforts, utility efficiencies and savings, athletics, central purchasing, health insurance purchased through DE, the evolution of the community college system's mission and services, articulation efforts between community colleges and regents universities that differ by community college, reverse transfer programs that allow students to transfer university credits back to the community college so that the student may receive an associate degree, remediation needs and efforts and communication with the K-12 system, tutoring efforts, student "graduation rates" and varying definitions of the term, orientation efforts, the need for better student counseling and communication at K-16 levels, supplementary weighting for district-to-community college sharing and concurrent enrollment programs offered and taken during the summer, the potential for area education agencies to act as liaisons between the community colleges and four-year postsecondary institutions, mental health services for students, reducing costs and increasing affordability for students, adjunct and full-time faculty staffing levels, and holding administrator salaries to less than exorbitant levels.

The presenters were asked to submit to the committee ideas for ways legislation or legislators could assist community colleges in accomplishing their missions and increasing their affordability. Both Dr. Starcevich and Dr. Kinney recommended increasing state general aid to the community colleges. Dr. Starcevich also recommended increasing the property tax levy by an additional five cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Mr. Gary Steinke, President of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, described the association as a voluntary organization that does not, as a

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(Administrative Costs in Higher Education Study Committee continued from Page 3)

rule, collect data from its member colleges and universities. He stated that the association made an effort to access member institution data from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), but such efforts were stalled when the IPEDS Internet site was closed by the federal government shutdown in October 2013.

Mr. Kent Henning, President of Grand View University, described outsourcing measures taken by the university to reduce costs, described the two fees assessed by the college (\$175 for a student activity fee and \$250 for a technology fee), and discussed the number of full-time and adjunct faculty, the number of administrators and other employees, the number of credits taught by full-time and adjunct faculty, the net price to attend minus the scholarships and grants received by students compared to the net price at the regents universities, the affordability index and increasing levels of financial aid budgeted by the university, accreditation costs, and other cost-saving measures implemented by his administration.

Dr. Mark Putnam, President of Central College, discussed Central's business-like atmosphere; the number of students and faculty; the high cost to attend the college, including room and board, balanced against the scholarships and grants provided to students; the benefits and annual limitations of the college's endowment; entrepreneurial activities undertaken to raise funds; health plan costs; utilization of a managed service to cut printing costs; the beneficial partnership between the college and the state created by the Iowa Tuition Grant Program; and the infrastructure costs that must be covered by fund-raising efforts.

Discussion focused on the use of the Iowa Tuition Grant Program by the institutions to reduce the net cost to students and to help with fund-raising efforts, the millions of dollars the association's member institutions provide to students, the number of in-state and out-of-state students and the number of those students who remain in the state and specifically in Des Moines after graduation; partnerships between the association, regents universities, private colleges, and community colleges for courses that the institutions may share; articulation agreements with other private and public state postsecondary institutions; student debt counseling and financial literacy efforts aimed to prepare students and their families; remediation and developmental coursework; the link between socioeconomic status and academic preparedness; the value of an education and the unaffordability of majors that do not involve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); the amount of acceptable debt; and regulatory costs and their impact on administrative costs.

For-profit Postsecondary Institutions. Presenters representing for-profit colleges whose students are eligible to receive Iowa tuition grants included Mr. Doug Struyk of the Carney & Appleby law firm, who represented Ashford University, a Bridgepoint Education, Inc. institution; Ms. Susan Spivey, Campus President of the Cedar Falls Campus of Kaplan University, a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company; and Dr. Bob Alsop, President of Waldorf College, owned by Columbia Southern Education Group, Inc.

Mr. Struyk provided a list of all mandatory fees charged to students by Ashford University; the number of executive, administrative, and managerial employees; the ratio of those employees to all employees; the percentage of full-time employees responsible for instruction, research, and public service; the annual spending on activities, other than direct instruction, as a percentage of total spending; and the annual spending on auxiliary enterprises, plant operation and maintenance, and scholarships and fellowships as a percentage of total spending. He noted that the university's growth reflects its investment in Iowa. He noted that the institution just this summer earned regional accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. He said he would provide the committee with retention and graduation rates.

Ms. Spivey provided members with a history of the university and noted that it is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, but also has received programmatic accreditation for a number of its business programs. She described risk factors affecting the university's nontraditional students, who make up the bulk of the enrollment; the number of graduates who remain in the state; the number of graduates who find jobs in their field of study; the average class size; student services such as employment and academic advisors; the Kaplan Commitment—the three weeks in which a student may withdraw from the program for any reason without penalty; tuition and fees; scholarship matches up to \$20,000; the number of students receiving Iowa tuition grants; a transfer credit policy; challenge exams; and activities not offered by the university, which include research or service activities, athletics, and auxiliary enterprises such as housing, dining, and college sports. She also provided a list of undergraduate and graduate programs and the tuition and fees charged for those programs.

Dr. Alsop gave a brief description of Waldorf College's history, and provided a list of comprehensive fees; information relating to mandatory student health insurance; the number of executive, administrative, and managerial employees

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(Administrative Costs in Higher Education Study Committee continued from Page 4)

and the ratio of those employees to all employees; the supervisor-to-staff ratio; the percentage of staff FTEs for instruction, research, or service activities; the annual spending on activities other than direct instruction as a percentage of total spending; the annual spending on auxiliary enterprises, plant, and scholarships as a percentage of total spending; the amount of borrowing for construction; and the cost of servicing debt.

Regents Institutions. Committee members received presentations relating to the regents universities from Ms. Patrice M. Sayre, Chief Business Officer for the Iowa Board of Regents; Dr. Barry Butler, Executive Vice President and Provost for the University of Iowa (UI); Mr. Michael Hager, Vice President of Administration and Financial Services for the University of Northern Iowa (UNI); and Mr. Warren Madden, Senior Vice President for Business and Finance at Iowa State University (ISU).

Ms. Sayre stated that the State Board of Regents is in the process of conducting a 12- to 18-month comprehensive review of the regents universities. She provided the committee information on the background of mandatory fees, recent history of fees, and mandatory fee proposals for 2013-2014; employee counts; a span of control report and policy; faculty responsibilities, levels of staffing, and student evaluations of faculty; the education and students affairs committees; annual spending on activities, auxiliary enterprises, plant operation and maintenance, and scholarships and fellowships; and annual debt service. Dr. Butler provided an overview of UI's efforts to manage growth in teaching, research, and service and focused on integration and collaboration efforts that have resulted in cost savings and improvements. Mr. Madden provided an overview of ISU—its enrollment, employees, mission, and continuous process improvement resulting in administrative, facility, and academic efficiencies and cost savings. Mr. Hager provided recent highlights from UNI's record of distinction, and overviews of its organizational efficiencies, business practices and management, and efficiencies in retaining and graduating students.

Discussion focused on student expectations which have resulted in higher fees for student recreation and wellness facilities (fees the students voted to impose); efficiency efforts; student debt factors; incentives to encourage greater effort by students to graduate on time, including the Summer Hawk Tuition Grant Program at UI; and financial literacy efforts at ISU and UNI.

LSA Contacts: Kathy Hanlon, Legal Services, (515) 281-3847; Jack Ewing, Legal Services, (515) 281-6048; Michael Duster, Legal Services, (515) 281-4800.

Internet Page: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=927>

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE

November 6 & 7, 2013

Co-chairperson: Senator Mary Jo Wilhelm

Co-chairperson: Representative Ralph Watts

Background. The Emergency Medical Services Study Committee was created by the Legislative Council for the 2013 Legislative Interim and authorized to hold two meetings. The charge of the committee is to research the current status of Iowa's emergency medical services (EMS) and make recommendations to ensure the future availability of EMS statewide. The committee is to consult with stakeholders in conducting the study.

Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of EMS. Ms. Rebecca Curtiss, Interim EMS Bureau Chief, discussed the organization, staffing, and funding of the EMS Bureau over the past decade. The bureau was recently reorganized in conjunction with departmental organization changes, placing Mr. Ken Sharp as the Division Director for Acute Disease Prevention, Emergency Response, and Environmental Health, with supervision over the bureau. The bureau's funding, including funding from the State General Fund and federal sources, has decreased significantly since FY 2008-2009, and full-time equivalent positions have been reduced by approximately 27 percent during that period, including a reduction in the number of regional coordinators from six to four. Mr. Joe Ferrell, EMS Regulations Manager, discussed the role of the EMS Advisory Council, including its role in fulfilling some of the duties of the vacant state medical director position. Mr. Ferrell also discussed the bureau's responsibilities regarding the authorization and regulation of EMS service programs and the certification and regulation of EMS providers, including recent changes in certification levels to align with national standards.

Iowa EMS Association (IEMSA). Mr. Jerry Ewers, President of IEMSA, described the mission, history, and role of the association in representing the state's EMS providers and promoting high-quality EMS throughout the state. IEMSA recently conducted a survey of EMS providers regarding their EMS service, education, concerns, and suggestions for

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improvement of the EMS system. Concerns most often raised by survey respondents included a lack of time, money, and resources. IEMSA maintains a neutral position on the issue of background checks for providers at the time of certification, indicating that training programs perform the checks and most employers do too. For the 2014 Legislative Session IEMSA proposes making EMS an essential service, increasing the volunteer fire fighter and volunteer emergency services personnel income tax credit, and increasing EMS Bureau funding to increase staffing and add a State Medical Director.

Emergency Medical Services Training Programs. Ms. Rosemary Adam, EMS Learning Resource Center, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, discussed the training requirements and options for the various EMS provider levels, including the duration, availability, and costs of such training. Training costs for certification levels below the paramedic level are comparable across the state. However, paramedic training costs range from \$6,000 to \$12,000, depending on the training program. All training must be provided by or authorized by an authorized training program. Continuing education requirements are 50 percent formal education and 50 percent informal, with classes often being offered by local fire departments or ambulance services in the provider's hometown or online. Ms. Adam also discussed training completion and exam success rates and enrollment trends for the various certification levels. Ms. Tina Young, South-eastern Community College, West Burlington, emphasized the value that authorized training programs provide in overseeing the off-site education programs. She also stated that although the EMS provider programs are not required to be for-credit programs, being offered for credit makes the students eligible for financial aid. Ms. Adam recommended some clarification of the continuing education requirements for providers because many providers have expressed confusion regarding the requirements. She also opined that the return on investment for persons trained and certified as paramedics is often not worth the investment as paramedics get lower wages than other health care professionals.

EMS Medicaid Reimbursement. Ms. Jennifer Vermeer, Director of the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise in the Department of Human Services, discussed the primary Medicaid programs and the reimbursement by such programs for emergency services. First, Medicaid-managed care plans cover ambulance services through their contracts with providers. Medicaid pays a capitation payment to the managed care plan to cover all services included in the contract and the plan negotiates rates with providers. Second, Medicaid contracts and pays ambulance providers directly on a fee-for-service basis for members who require emergency medical transportation or transport because medical conditions preclude any other method of transportation. Reimbursement rates for such service are set by the legislature's annual appropriations bill and a 10 percent increase was enacted for fiscal year 2013-2014. IowaCare, the program which provides low-income adults with limited health care benefits, does not cover ambulance services, but will be replaced by the Iowa Health and Wellness Program, which does cover ambulance service at the same rate as Medicaid. Ms. Vermeer also discussed Medicaid provider requirements, provided examples of Medicaid reimbursement rates, and stated that there is an interest in changing from the Medicaid reimbursement rates to the more complex Medicare reimbursement methodology.

EMS Provider Perspective. Mr. Brian Donaldson, Director, SEMS Paramedic Services, Sumner, discussed various issues relating to the EMS system in Iowa. First, he opined that consolidation, regionalization, and partnerships are key to the future development of the EMS system, which should be led and supported by the state. Second, the approach to Medicaid reimbursement needs to be revised as Iowa has the poorest reimbursement rate in the upper Midwest and the fee schedule is not all-inclusive. Mr. Donaldson opined that there should be a mechanism in place for annual review of reimbursement rates. Third, behavioral health transport requirements and reimbursement need to be reevaluated. Such transports take EMS personnel out of service for a significant period of time and reimbursement does not follow the same Medicaid fee schedule. Fourth, EMS should be considered an essential service. Although townships and counties have the ability to tax for such services, no entity has the responsibility to provide service or funding. Fifth, Mr. Donaldson expressed his desire to see establishment of a blue ribbon task force to allow expert guidance from leaders in the industry for the creation of a plan to develop a sustainable system to provide quality care.

EMS Advisory Council, Quality Assurance, Standards and Protocols (QASP) Subcommittee. Mr. Gerd Clabaugh, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health, discussed the QASP Subcommittee's review of the administrative rules governing the authorization of EMS service programs. The subcommittee has several areas to focus on in its review: the authorization levels for service programs, medical director training requirements, continuous quality improvement, data-related issues, and disciplinary procedures.

Public Comment. The co-chairpersons opened the meeting for public comment and several EMS providers made remarks to the committee. Mr. Gary Merrill, Director, Algona Emergency Medical Service, opined that standards for EMS providers need to be high as they are medical providers who need to provide quality care and that background checks should be required. Mr. Jeff Burkett, a volunteer EMS provider from Prairie City, stated that identifying re-

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sources and complying with the requirements for obtaining grant moneys for training is confusing and time-consuming for smaller EMS agencies that are already time-constrained. Mr. Jacob Mayer, a recently certified EMT from Lake City whose training was paid for by the hospital with which he is employed in exchange for a two-year employment commitment, stated that people need to understand that EMS providers are medical professionals and that training for such is going to cost money. Dr. Scott Nelson, Director of Operations for Midwest Ambulance Services, opined that in adopting the national standards for the scope of practice for EMS providers the ability to consider state and local needs in determining scope of practice was lost. Mr. Orville Randolph, the mayor of Bennett and the director of the city's volunteer ambulance service, discussed the financial and other concerns of smaller volunteer services like Bennett's, including problems finding daytime coverage with volunteers who have full-time jobs, the dwindling funds for EMS system development grants, and the high turnover rate for service directors.

Committee Discussion. Co-chairperson Wilhelm requested the members of the committee to each discuss a few issues that they felt should be addressed. Several members commented that EMS should be made an essential service just as law enforcement and fire service are, but that how such service is paid for also needs to be addressed. Other issues raised included behavioral health transport requirements and reimbursement; providing funding for EMS provider training, possibly through the community colleges; requiring background checks; increasing the income tax credit for volunteer providers; establishing a blue ribbon task force to further study the EMS system; increasing Medicaid reimbursements; increasing funding for and staffing of the EMS Bureau, including the addition of a State Medical Director; incentivizing the transition from EMT to paramedic; and determining whether personal medical information in data should be collected or retained.

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Internet Page: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=929>